

In the claims:

1. (Amended) A cosmetics brush for applying mascara or other cosmetics, comprising a plurality of multi-fiber bristles deployed extending from a core, at least some of the multi-fiber bristles comprising a plurality of individual fibers extending from the core in supportive interengagement.

2. (Original) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the plurality of individual fibers comprises at least two different kinds of fibers.

3. (Original) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the plurality of individual fibers includes fibers of different diameters.

4. (Original) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the plurality of individual fibers includes some fibers that are stiffer than other fibers.

5. (Original) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 4 wherein the plurality of individual fibers includes fibers of different diameters.

6. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the plurality of individual fibers includes a central support fiber and a plurality of smaller diameter, less stiff additional individual fibers that are braided or woven about the central support fiber.

7. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 6 wherein tip ends of the smaller diameter and less stiff additional individual fibers are deployed adjacent the tip ends of the central support fiber.

8. (Original) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 7 wherein the central support fiber is a polymer fiber with a diameter in the range of .003 to .012 inches.

9. (Amended) A mascara brush as defined in claim 8 wherein the smaller diameter and less stiff additional individual fibers comprise bundles of microfiber.

10. (Original) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 9 wherein the smaller diameter and less stiff fibers have a diameter in the range of .0005 to .0015 inches.

11. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least some [[of the]] multi-fiber bristles comprise a hollow support fiber and a plurality of smaller diameter additional individual fibers constrained and supported within the hollow support fiber.

12. (Amended) A mascara brush as defined in claim 11 wherein the hollow support fiber is a fiber with a C-shaped cross section having a slot opening into the hollow center thereof, and the smaller diameter additional individual fibers are engaged and supported therein.

13. (Original) A mascara brush as defined in claim 11 wherein the hollow support fiber is a polymer fiber having a diameter in the range of .005 to .020 inches.

14. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 13 wherein the smaller diameter additional individual fibers have diameters of .001 inches or less.

15. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least some multi-fiber bristles comprise a spiral support fiber and a plurality of smaller diameter additional individual fibers surrounded and supported by the spiral support fiber.

16. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least some multi-fiber bristles comprise a plurality of individual fibers braided together.

17. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 16 wherein the individual fibers that are braided together include different kinds of fibers.

18. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 17 wherein some of the individual fibers are stiffer than other of the individual fibers.

19. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 18 wherein some of the individual fibers comprise bundles of microfibers.

20. (Amended) A cosmetics brush as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the individual fibers of [[the]] a multi-fiber bristle[[s]] is a relatively stiff support fiber and others of the individual fibers of the multi-fiber bristle are less stiff and are deployed in supportive interengagement with the support fiber.